

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3781

To require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to update its report on hate speech, especially as it relates to hate speech on the Internet, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 1996

Mr. ZIMMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to update its report on hate speech, especially as it relates to hate speech on the Internet, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The World Wide Web, a relatively new
6 Internet technology, is attracting a rapidly growing
7 audience. The global nature of the Internet permits
8 the Web to reach a worldwide audience. Web pub-

1 lishing is fairly inexpensive and simple. Its broad
2 reach, low costs and relatively easy-to-master tech-
3 nology have made the World Wide Web an ideal
4 propaganda vehicle for hate and extremist groups.

5 (2) As computers become less expensive, sim-
6 pler to use, and consequently more common in
7 American homes, as the barriers to disseminating in-
8 formation through computers falls, bigots of all
9 kinds are rushing to use the power of modern tech-
10 nology to spread their propaganda.

11 (3) Traditional hate groups have established
12 propaganda sites on the World Wide Web.

13 (4) Holocaust deniers are also using the Web.

14 (5) A new type of hater, young and computer
15 literate, has become prominent on the Web. The
16 ease of access creates opportunities for young, pre-
17 viously unknown haters and hate groups, to promote
18 themselves and become active anti-Semitic and racist
19 propagandists. These individuals and groups have,
20 from time to time, used the facilities of both public
21 and private universities.

22 **SEC. 2. REPORT UPDATE REQUIRED.**

23 Section 155 of the National Telecommunications and
24 Information Administration Organization Act is amended
25 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

1 “(c) FOLLOW-UP REPORT REQUIRED.—

2 “(1) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Within 240 days
3 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
4 NTIA, with the assistance of the Commission, the
5 Department of Justice, and the United States Com-
6 mission on Civil Rights, shall prepare a report—

7 “(A) analyzing the use of the Internet and
8 other interactive communications media for the
9 dissemination of propaganda advocating hatred
10 on the basis of race, color, religion, national ori-
11 gin, or sex;

12 “(B) evaluating the extent to which such
13 propaganda is accessible to minors, and the ex-
14 tent to which software or other measures are
15 available to protect minors from such propa-
16 ganda; and

17 “(C) including any recommendations that
18 such agencies deem appropriate.

19 “(2) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—The report re-
20 quired by paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the
21 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
22 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
23 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.”.

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